

Week Ending Friday, November 14, 2008

The President's Radio Address

November 8, 2008

Good morning. Earlier this week, more than 120 million Americans went to the polls and voted for a new President and Congress. No matter how we cast our ballots, all Americans have reason to be proud of our democracy. Our citizens have chosen a President who represents a triumph of the American story, a testament to hard work, optimism, and faith in the enduring promise of our Nation.

When I called President-elect Obama to congratulate him on his historic victory, I told him that he can count on my complete cooperation as he makes his transition to the White House. Ensuring that this transition is seamless is a top priority for the rest of my time in office. Our country faces economic challenges that will not pause to let a new President settle in. This will also be America's first wartime Presidential transition in four decades. We're in a struggle against violent extremists determined to attack us, and they would like nothing more than to exploit this period of change to harm the American people.

So my administration will work hard to ensure that the next President and his team can hit the ground running. For more than a year now, the White House and agencies throughout the Federal Government have been preparing for a smooth transition. We've provided intelligence briefings to the President-elect, and the Department of Justice has approved security clearances for members of his transition staff. In the coming weeks, we will ask administration officials to brief the Obama team on major ongoing policy issues, ranging from the financial markets to the war in Iraq. I will keep the President-elect fully informed on important decisions during this critical time for our Nation. Taken together, these measures represent an unprecedented

effort to ensure continuity throughout the executive branch.

A successful transition is just one of the many important tasks remaining for my administration. Yesterday we learned that America's economy lost jobs in the month of October, and I will continue working hard to return our Nation to the path of prosperity and growth. To help address the global financial crisis, my administration will host an historic international summit in Washington on November the 15th. We will also keep urging Congress to approve America's free trade agreements with Colombia and Panama and South Korea. We will continue working to defeat the terrorists and extremists abroad to keep the American people safe here at home.

Americans expect their President to conduct the people's business. I will continue to uphold this solemn obligation for as long as this office remains in my trust. In the meantime, I join the American people in wishing President-elect Obama every success. Laura and I wish the Obama family as much joy and happiness as our family has found in this wonderful house.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 10 a.m. on November 7 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on November 8. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 7 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks Following a Visit With Wounded Troops and Their Families at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland

November 10, 2008

Admiral, thank you very much for leading an amazing group of men and women who

provide such compassion and skill for those who have been wounded.

You know, I'm—appreciate the families who were so gracious to me here. One of the things I tell them is that their loved one is going to get fabulous medical care, and they do. It's inspiring to see the hard work. It's also inspiring to see the courage of the patients. I met some of the men that I'd seen 6 months ago; I came back, and they're totally different looking people. That's because of the good health care. It's also because of their mental framework. They've decided that nothing's going to get them down, and they battled back. And they're—a lot of them are doing really well.

So I want to thank you for your time, and it's been an honor to be the Commander in Chief of such fine men and women.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:19 a.m. In his remarks, he referred to Rear Adm. Matthew L. Nathan, USN, commander, National Naval Medical Center.

Notice—Continuation of National Emergency With Respect to Weapons of Mass Destruction

November 10, 2008

On November 14, 1994, by Executive Order 12938, the President declared a national emergency with respect to the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States posed by the proliferation of nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons (weapons of mass destruction) and the means of delivering such weapons. On July 28, 1998, the President issued Executive Order 13094 amending Executive Order 12938 to respond more effectively to the worldwide threat of weapons of mass destruction proliferation activities. On June 28, 2005, I issued Executive Order 13382 that, *inter alia*, further amended Executive Order 12938 to improve our ability to combat proliferation. The proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the means of delivering them continues to pose

an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States; therefore, the national emergency first declared on November 14, 1994, and extended in each subsequent year, must continue. In accordance with section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), I am continuing for 1 year the national emergency declared in Executive Order 12938, as amended.

This notice shall be published in the *Federal Register* and transmitted to the Congress.

George W. Bush

The White House,
November 10, 2008.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:15 a.m., November 10, 2008]

NOTE: This notice was published in the *Federal Register* on November 12.

Letter to Congressional Leaders on Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to Weapons of Mass Destruction

November 10, 2008

Dear Madam Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

In accordance with section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), I have sent the enclosed notice to the *Federal Register* for publication, stating that the national emergency with respect to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction that was declared in Executive Order 12938 of November 14, 1994, as amended, is to continue in effect beyond November 14, 2008.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate.